

The poster features a blue and white EMS helicopter in flight at the top. Below it, the text "EMS STAR OF LIFE" is prominently displayed in a bold, blue, sans-serif font with a slight 3D effect. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds and several large, stylized yellow stars. Below the main title, the date "November 7, 2022" is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. In the center of the poster is a white Ford ambulance with blue decorative stripes and the word "AMBULANCE" in red on the front grille. At the bottom, the text "2022 AWARDS CEREMONY" is written in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. The bottom section also includes a logo on the left, which is a blue Star of Life with a yellow star in the center and a white caduceus, and the text "EMS Star of Life Award." on the right, which includes a red ECG line graphic.

# EMS STAR OF LIFE

November 7, 2022



## 2022 AWARDS CEREMONY



EMS  
Star of Life Award.





# EMS STAR OF LIFE PURPOSE

## HONOR

*Exceptional EMS personnel from Ohio.*

## RECOGNIZE

*Ohio's emergency medical services system and organizations for a job well done.*

## REUNITE

*EMS providers with the person treated and present the actual patient scenario.*

## GENERATE

*Positive media stories regarding out-of-hospital care and the EMS Star of Life Awards.*

## MAGNIFY

*The profile of National EMS Week in the State of Ohio.*

# AGENDA

## 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL EMS STAR OF LIFE AWARDS CEREMONY

- 12:30 p.m. .... Meet & Greet/Photos
- 1:00 p.m.  
Welcome ..... **Executive Director Rob Wagoner**  
*Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services*
- Opening Remarks ..... **Assistant Director Karen Huey**  
*Ohio Department of Public Safety*
- 1:15 p.m. .... **Award Presentations**  
*Executive Director Wagoner*
- EMS Agency of the Year.....**Akron Fire Department**  
*Presented by Mark Resanovich*  
*State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services*
- EMS Provider of the Year ..... **Stephanie Ann Volkert**  
*Presented by Mark Resanovich*  
*State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services*
- EMS Medical Director  
of the Year..... **Andrew Garlisi, M.D.**  
*Presented by Carol A. Cunningham, MD, FAAEM, FAEMS*  
*State of Ohio Medical Director*
- Frank Giampetro  
Distinguished EMS Educator Award ..... **Diane Bunker**  
*Presented by Frank Giampetro*
- Jack B. Liberator  
Lifetime Achievement Award ..... **Michael R. Dick, M.D.**  
*Presented by Jack B. Liberator*
- EMS Stars ..... **Award Presentations**  
*Presented by Kent Appelhans, Chair*  
*State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Service*
- Closing remarks ..... **Executive Director Wagoner**



# EMS STARS

## 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL EMS STAR OF LIFE AWARDS CEREMONY

**Fredericktown Community Joint Emergency Ambulance District  
and MedFlight**

*Lew Canter, patient*

**Highland Township Fire Department**

*Mary Zebolsky, patient*

**Huber Heights Fire Division**

*Tondra Jones, patient*

**Lifecare Ambulance, Inc.**

*Cynthia Gehlman, patient*

**Maumee Fire Department**

*Chinedu Oguguo, patient*

**Mercer County EMS**

*Barry Helman, patient*

**Richfield Fire Department and MedEvac**

*Tyrek Mills, patient*

# EMS AGENCY OF THE YEAR

## AKRON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Akron Fire Department has evolved from 25 paramedic firefighters and three paramedic transport units over 40 years ago, to 197 paramedics and 14 paramedic transport units covering the City of Akron and providing mutual aid to surrounding communities.



Akron Fire Department has many specialty teams and community outreach programs with EMS as a primary participant. Some of these programs include: the Tactical EMS Team (TEMS) that works with the Akron SWAT Team; the Resources, Education, and Advocacy for Community Health (REACH) program that provides home safety inspections and other resources to residents; the Quick Response Team (QRT) that provides resources such as CPR Anytime, Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) that provides free naloxone kits to treat opioid overdoses, and definitive care to residents with opioid addiction; and Community CPR classes that provide multiple opportunities for the public to learn hands-only CPR to improve survival from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.





## **Akron Fire Department has many specialty teams and community outreach programs with EMS as a primary participant.**



Continuing education efforts are spearheaded by Medical Director Dr. Amy Raubenolt and Quality Assurance Coordinator Rita Chambers. Their leadership has resulted in Akron Fire being an American Heart Association (AHA) Training Center that is open to nurses, physicians, and resident physicians, personnel serving as basic life support educators for public safety dispatchers, and their paramedics becoming state certified EMS instructors that serve local paramedic education programs and county fire departments.

Akron Fire's tireless efforts to improve field times and survivability of cardiac arrest victims through an increase in bystander CPR, use of the PulsePoint mobile app, participation in the CARES registry, and the utilization of advanced equipment on paramedic units has not gone unnoticed. Their squads were awarded the "STEMI Team of the Month" by local hospitals, and the American Heart Association Mission Lifeline program awarded the department the Bronze Plus Award in 2020.

Akron Fire Department's commitment to excellence and their dedication to improving the level of out-of-hospital care for their residents and visitors is greatly appreciated.

# EMS PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

## STEPHANIE ANN VOLKERT RN, PARAMEDIC, TRI-DIVISION AMBULANCE

Stephanie Volkert has dedicated 20 years of service to the EMS profession where she has provided excellent patient care in northeast Ohio. Her compassionate and confident demeanor gives her the exceptional ability to connect with the most vulnerable patients and to remain calm in high-stress situations.

Ms. Volkert's career began at Perry Township Fire Department in Stark County as a volunteer firefighter and EMT. After completing the paramedic training program in 2003, she worked at Ambulance Associates in Stark County, and in 2004, she was hired as a new medic at the Tri-Division Ambulance District. It was there where her easy wit, humor, and her ability to improvise would allow her to quickly adapt to the rural, small-town of East Sparta where she helped gather





**“Being a medic made me a better nurse, and  
being a nurse made me a better medic.”**

fish from receding flood waters to return to the waterways, helped wrangle a rogue pig, and where she learned that crows weren't small turkeys. East Sparta was the complete opposite of her native Akron city neighborhood.

For over 18 years, Ms. Volkert has been the model employee, offering excellent patient care, and being flexible in her work schedule when needed. She experienced many challenges in her young formative years, such as becoming a mother very early in life. Those challenges have pushed her to excel in her field, and lead her to complete nursing school a few years ago, where she currently serves as an emergency department nurse at Aultman Hospital.



# EMS PROVIDER OF THE YEAR



She has often said, “Being a medic made me a better nurse, and being a nurse made me a better medic.”

Her dedication to the EMS service, the countless lives of patients she has touched, and the numerous young EMS providers she has had the privilege of mentoring is evident to anyone in the northeast Ohio area.

Ms. Volkert is an excellent representation of true dedication to raising the level of out-of-hospital care for one’s community.





# MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

## ANDREW GARLISI, M.D. UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS

Dr. Andrew Garlisi is described by his peers as the truest form of a physician that has taken the Hippocratic Oath. He serves as a medical director for University Hospitals, Geauga Paramedic Program, and also has 13 EMS/fire agencies under his direction, and is an EMS educator who pushes his EMS providers to strive for excellent patient care.

Having started his career over 40 years ago in an emergency room before they evolved into departments or trauma centers, Dr. Garlisi has maintained his lifetime passion for the profession.



**Dr. Garlisi takes an active approach when teaching, offering multiple monthly trainings to ensure his department is providing the best level of care.**

He is an exceptional medical director for the University Hospitals EMS Training and Disaster Preparedness Institute where his leadership and drive has produced and maintained hundreds of EMS personnel that serve northeast Ohio and beyond.

Dr. Garlisi takes an active approach when teaching, offering multiple monthly trainings to ensure his department is providing the best level of care. He often refers to paramedics as “physician extenders” by serving as their eyes and ears when treating patients. He challenges his students to think critically and to maintain a high-level of the core values of the EMS profession, while staying up-to-date with modern treatment and stressing the importance of the human aspect of patient care.



He readily reviews new studies and data as a member of the University Hospitals Protocols Committee and applies this evidence-based knowledge to the EMS field. His participation in the development of bleeding control and CPR training led to the initiative being named on the Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS) Top Ten 2019 List.

Dr. Garlisi's leadership has significantly contributed to excellence in Ohio EMS. He demonstrates a clear commitment to the advancement of EMS in Ohio as he readies the next generation of paramedics.



# **FRANK GIAMPETRO DISTINGUISHED EMS EDUCATOR AWARD**

## **DIANE BUNKER ASSISTANT CHIEF, RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Diane Bunker has lived a life and career of a true educator. In her 41 years at the Randolph Township Fire Department, she has held nearly every position, from being the department's first full-time firefighter/paramedic to serving as captain, and then serving as assistant chief.

Her experience in those diverse roles cultivated long-lasting skills that are unmatched and has allowed her to have a larger impact when teaching in the EMS field.

Ms. Bunker has a natural passion to instruct, from teaching first-aid and CPR classes to the residents of Randolph Township to leading continuing education and other types of EMS provider courses.

Her path as an educator started shortly after completing her paramedic training in 1985, where she began instructing in Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, and International Trauma Life Support. Bunker became an Ohio certified instructor in 1988 and has taught at Maplewood Career Center, Akron City Hospital's EMS Education Program, and University Hospitals-Portage where she has instructed for 26 years.

She continues to seek additional training and seminar opportunities while also sharing her knowledge with the next generation of EMS providers.







Her commitment to EMS education has made a lasting and valuable impact on the EMS community which has helped improved overall patient care in Ohio.



**JACK B. LIBERATOR**

# **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**MICHAEL R. DICK, M.D.**  
**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY,**  
**WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER**

Dr. Dick has dedicated over 40 years to the emergency medicine profession. He came to the Ohio State University (OSU) as a paramedic in the emergency room where he continued his education, and received his Master's in Pathology and his medical degree from OSU. He joined the OSU faculty in 1993. He has served as medical director for EMS at Honda of America in Marysville, medical director and advisory board chairman for Upper Arlington, and currently serves as EMS fellowship core faculty and medical director of the Center for Emergency Medical Services at OSU.



He's made an outstanding impact on the clinical practices in the community of EMS, giving lectures to broad EMS audiences on numerous and valuable topics such as "Naloxone: What is the Right Dose," "Emergency Department Case Presentations" and "Inhalation Injuries."

Dr. Dick has championed many EMS programs involving stroke, trauma, and cardiac protocols, as well as Project DAWN which helps prevent deaths through free distribution of naloxone throughout the community. Additionally, Dr. Dick created the first emergency department naloxone distribution program in Franklin County in 2015, which is now considered a standard of care.

He is revered as an expert clinician and still serves as an outstanding resource for the medical community. He is also known for his

**Dr. Dick has championed many EMS programs involving stroke, trauma, and cardiac protocols, as well as Project DAWN which helps prevent deaths through free distribution of naloxone throughout the community.**



perseverance, which he demonstrated with the many hours spent developing COVID-19 protocols while quietly battling his own personal health crisis with a rare cancer diagnosis. He never missed a beat, enduring weeks of radiation treatment and target therapy while also participating in COVID-19 operations management calls and providing leadership to the staff on-site.

Dr. Dick stated his experience with cancer only made him a better physician and medical director. Dr. Dick's contributions to the EMS profession have made a valuable and lasting impact on the EMS community by improving overall patient care in Ohio for many years to come.

# EMS STARS

## FREDERICKTOWN COMMUNITY JOINT EMERGENCY AMBULANCE DISTRICT



Chief Richard Lanuzza  
Paramedic, FF



Bernard Douglas  
Paramedic



Michael Holley  
Paramedic



Ronny Flynn  
EMT, VFF



Asst. Chief Jason Whaley  
Paramedic, FF



Scott Mast  
EMT, FF



Dalton Canter  
EMT, FF

## MEDFLIGHT



Ryan Harris  
Flight Nurse



Jeff Weitzel  
Paramedic




Jon Gray  
Flight Nurse



Lew Canter  
Patient

*Not Pictured: Captain Raymond Canter, AEMT, FF*



On June 8, 2021, Fredericktown EMS paramedics Michael Holley and Bernie Douglas were dispatched to a call of a person that was struck by lightning. While enroute, they discovered that the call came from a member of the Fredericktown Community Fire District. Additional members of the fire district were also dispatched to the scene.

Upon arrival they found firefighter Dalton Canter performing CPR on his father, Lew Canter who was in cardiac arrest. Lew was working on a diesel truck when a sudden and heavy storm occurred, resulting in the lightning strike.

Dalton immediately administered CPR in the pouring rain, during a lightning storm, while his father lay unresponsive and adjacent to a large metal structure.

On arrival, EMS personnel moved Lew to a safer location inside the structure where they could safely administer advanced life support, which included the use of a mechanical LUCAS CPR device. He was defibrillated and placed in the ambulance where he received further advanced care. While enroute to the nearest facility, Knox Community Hospital, he regained a pulse.

Lew was received by the ER team and was then transferred to a Columbus area hospital in critical condition. He was stabilized and eventually made a full-recovery with no signs of any deficit. Lew was able to avoid surgical placement of an automated implanted defibrillator by doctors due to his miraculous recall of the exact moment when he was struck by lightning, causing his sudden cardiac arrest.

Everyone involved in his care are to be commended for their actions that day. From the initial call, the quick action of Mr. Canter's son Dalton to administer CPR, the EMS team's early defibrillation and administration of advanced life support procedures despite the dangerous and severe weather, and rapid transport by the MedFlight ground unit to the hospital where staff continued to provide high quality care, affording Lew an increased chance of survival and a complete and successful recovery.



# EMS STARS

## HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT



Chief Brent Davis  
EMT, FF



Asst. Chief Matt Hanenkrath  
AEMT, VFF



Donovan Ziegler  
EMT, FF



Sterling Limbaer  
EMR, FF



Joshua Hanenkrath  
Defiance County Deputy



Stan Hartzell  
Defiance County Deputy



Kyle Potts  
Defiance County Deputy




Bill Shook  
Neighbor/911 caller



Mary Zebolsky  
Patient





On May 22, 2020, Highland Township Fire Department responded to a 9-1-1 call involving a victim suffering from bee stings. Upon arrival they found local beekeeper, 55 year old Mary Zebolsky, prone with bees covering her face inside her bee suit.

With the help of neighbor Bill Shook and Defiance County Sheriff Deputies Stan Hartzell, Josh Hanenkrath, and Highland Township Fire Chief Brent “Bubba” Davis, EMS staff were able to open Ms. Zebolsky’s bee suit and release the bees. A fire extinguisher was used to rid the patient of the rest of the bees, allowing her to be pulled to safety.

Although the patient did not have a bee allergy, due to her being stung by over 300 bees, her blood pressure had fallen to a dangerously low 61/30 and a heart rate of only 31 beats per minute.

Paramedics worked quickly to transport and stabilize the patient, administer epinephrine in an IV drip per medical direction, and prepared her for air transport after arrival at Mercy Defiance Hospital. They managed to accomplish this in less than 30 minutes.

Ms. Zebolsky spent two days in the hospital recovering before being released. She suffered nerve damage around her hairline, issues with her heart rate and blood pressure due to the amount of venom in her system. She has recovered from this potentially deadly situation, thanks in large part to a great support network of family and friends who have provided much assistance during her recovery.

The initial call made by her neighbor, the prompt assessment, treatment, intervention, teamwork, and overall level of care provided by Highland Township Fire Department and Defiance County Sheriff Deputies saved Ms. Zebolsky’s life that day.

Ms. Zebolsky was so appreciative of the care she received by the Highland Township Fire Department that she decided to pay it forward by enrolling in an emergency medical technician program at the Four County Career Center. She became a certified EMT in October 2021.

# EMS STARS

## HUBER HEIGHTS FIRE DIVISION



Andrew Rammel  
Paramedic, FF



Christopher Warrick  
Paramedic, FF



Brandon Fraley  
Paramedic, FF




Jack Jacobsen  
Paramedic, FF



Garrett Buttelwerth  
Paramedic, FF



IN MEMORIAM  
Tondra Jones  
Patient



On February 7, 2021, Huber Heights Fire Department was dispatched to an apartment fire after a patrolling law enforcement officer reported smoke coming from an apartment complex. Engine 23 arrived on scene and reported light smoke. Upon further investigation, a fire on the first floor was located and firefighters began extinguishing the fire. Ladder 22 arrived on scene and conducted a primary search of the upstairs apartment. Additional crew members from Engine 25, Medic 22, and Engine 12 arrived on scene and were assigned the tasks of supporting fire suppression operations in the involved apartment as well as providing rapid intervention rescue.

Upon an “All clear” being called from the upstairs apartment, there was an almost simultaneous report of finding 51 year old Tondra Jones on the first floor. She was removed from the apartment and taken to the front lawn of the complex where she was assessed.

Ms. Jones was unconscious, suffering from smoke inhalation, acute respiratory failure, cardiac distress, as well as partial and full thickness burns involving 60% of her body. Paramedics initiated CPR and ventilations with a bag valve mask and oxygen. Attempts to intubate her were unsuccessful due to excessive swelling of her lips and upper airway. She was prepped for transport to the burn center, and while enroute an IV was established, medications were administered, and advanced life support efforts continued that included a successful surgical cricothyrotomy.

During transport, Ms. Jones heart rhythm returned and she had some purposeful movement in her limbs. She was transferred to the Miami Valley Hospital trauma team where she arrested one additional time in the trauma bay of the ED. Ms. Jones was admitted to the burn ICU at Miami Valley Hospital where she sadly succumbed to her injuries two months after her rescue.

Under intense pressure, the Huber Heights Fire and Medic crew continued providing advanced life support measures, advanced airway management techniques, and management of the patient’s injuries throughout the transport to the hospital. Their professionalism, adaptability, and actions provided Ms. Jones the best out-of-hospital care possible given these mortal injuries.

# EMS STARS

## LIFECARE AMBULANCE, INC.



Kimberly Mason  
Paramedic



Trooper Cody Kupchella  
Ohio State Highway Patrol



Nic Antonopoulos  
Paramedic



Jermey Herold  
EMT




Captain Nik Summers  
Paramedic, FF



Daisha Casey  
EMT



Trooper Cynthia Gehlman  
Patient



On June 9, 2020, Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Cynthia Gehlmann was dispatched to an intersection in Amherst Township, Lorain County, for a malfunctioning traffic light. Upon arrival, she activated the emergency lights on her patrol car, donned her reflective safety vest, and directed traffic. Additional troopers including Cody Kupchella arrived on the scene to assist. During that time, a white KIA SUV being operated by an impaired driver struck Trooper Gehlmann.

Kimberly Mason, a paramedic with LifeCare Ambulance, was traveling in the direction of the crash and arrived on the chaotic scene where she quickly exited her vehicle and provided care to Gehlmann. Trooper Gehlmann had suffered multiple skull fractures, a brain hemorrhage, and multiple broken bones. Ms. Mason's immediate response ensured the initial treatment and care of the patient were proper and not inadvertently harmful, which was crucial considering the level of trauma already sustained.

Ms. Mason controlled the bleeding and stabilized Ms. Gehlmann with the equipment that she had on hand, and communicated the severity of the incident through her chain of command. She also contacted an ambulance she knew was in the area. The LifeCare Ambulance crew, Captain Nik Summers, Jerrmey Herold, Nic Antonopoulos, and Daisha Casey arrived on scene, stabilized the patient with head blocks and a cervical collar, established an IV and administered medications. The patient was immediately transported to Mercy Health Hospital.

Because of the swift, initial life-saving actions of Ms. Mason and the outstanding care provided by Lifecare Ambulance that day under very stressful circumstances, Gehlmann was treated and released five days after the incident. She retired from the Ohio State Highway Patrol in April 2021.

Ms. Mason's immediate response was not only vital to the care of Trooper Gehlmann, but also to the overall safety of the scene. Troopers on scene were able to continue to direct traffic and effectively handle the investigation which subsequently led to the arrest of the impaired driver who was found guilty of a fourth-degree felony for Aggravated Vehicular Assault in July 2022.



# EMS STARS

## MAUMEE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Daniel Williams  
Paramedic, FF




Ronald Wedge  
Paramedic, FF



Chinedu Oguguo  
Patient



A decorative yellow banner with a wavy, ribbon-like shape spans the top of the page. It is adorned with numerous yellow stars of various sizes, some of which are slightly blurred to create a sense of motion or a starry night sky effect.

On November 1, 2021, Maumee Fire Department paramedics Dan Williams and Ron Wedge were on duty at an indoor soccer game with their Life Squad. It is the same league that both paramedics play for when off duty. They witnessed the play during the last seconds of the game when 33 year old goalie Chinedu Oguguo took a line drive soccer ball to the chest. Initially, Mr. Oguguo appeared fine after being hit, but right after the final whistle, he collapsed.

The blunt force impact to the chest interrupted the normal cardiac rhythm, which is a rare but often fatal phenomenon termed commotio cordis. Williams and Wedge immediately jumped into action, began chest compressions, and notified dispatch. They also administered two shocks with the defibrillator, initiated an IV, and administered cardiac medications. A strong pulse that matched the rhythm on the ECG monitor was detected. Mr. Oguguo was placed on a stretcher and transported to the University of Toledo Medical Center where he regained consciousness.

He had no memory of the incident and his doctor informed him out of the ten people who suffered from his condition, only two usually survive.

Several weeks later Mr. Oguguo, his soccer teammates, and coach visited the department to thank Williams and Wedge for saving his life.

The fact that two Maumee paramedics were already on-scene, had advanced training, and possessed life-saving equipment when his injury occurred truly made the difference between life and death that day and successful recovery from this very rare condition.

# EMS STARS

## MERCER COUNTY EMS



Logan Sutter  
EMT, FF



Barry Fennig  
EMT, FF



Ralph Griesdorn  
EMT, FF



Michael Bruns  
Paramedic, FF



Russell Moorman  
Paramedic, FF



Trevor Koch  
EMT, FF



Austin Barna  
FF




Todd Williams  
FF



Spencer Heintz  
Mercer County Deputy



Barry Helman  
Patient



On March 18, 2021, Mercer County EMS was dispatched to a car crash with injured occupants. Rockman and Mendon Fire Departments also arrived on scene to assist. One patient was transported to the hospital while several other crews remained on the scene to complete patient sign-offs. Mercer County EMT Barry Helman suddenly fell unresponsive on the roadway. Mercer, Mendon and Rockford members already on scene immediately assessed him and determined he was pulseless. They began CPR and requested an additional advanced life support squad to the scene.

Mercer County Sheriff Deputy Spencer Heinl retrieved an AED from his cruiser. EMT Helman was defibrillated one time on the scene and placed into the ambulance where he became alert and oriented during transport to the ED. The 12-Lead ECG monitor indicated that the patient was having a STEMI, which is a heart attack affecting the heart's lower chambers. He was transferred to Lutheran Hospital where he underwent cardiac bypass surgery. Mr. Helman was able to make a full recovery and later returned to work on full-duty.

Everyone involved in the care of Mr. Helman are to be commended for their actions that day. The clear communication and the swift, high-quality care, and rapid transport by all EMS personnel on the scene gave him the best chance of survival. This serves as an example of how teamwork and cooperation among local providers can deliver the vital care needed to make a life-saving difference.

# EMS STARS

## RICHFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT



Robert Benza  
Paramedic, FF



David Kren  
Paramedic, FF



Jason Purkey  
Paramedic, FF



Chief George Seifert  
Paramedic, FF



Joel Meister  
Richfield Police Officer



Doug McArtor  
Richfield Police Officer



Nicole Keserich  
Dispatcher

## MEDEVAC



Marc Wegryn  
Flight Paramedic




Justin Eastwood  
Lead Pilot



George Miu  
Flight Nurse

*Not Pictured: Tyrek Mills, Patient*



On September 12, 2021, local EMS and police were dispatched by telecommunicator Nicole Kesperich to a car crash with an entrapped victim. Police officers Joel Meister and Doug McArtor arrived first on the scene, quickly assessed the situation, and provided detailed information about the scene and the patient's condition. Because of the detailed information relayed, University Hospital MedEvac was requested to be on standby.

Upon arrival, the Richfield Fire Department found 24 year old Tyrek Mills trapped in the driver-side door with both legs severed below the knee. A vehicle struck Mr. Mills traveling at interstate speeds while he was standing on the pavement and leaning into his car. Paramedics Robert Benza, David Kren, Lt. Jason Purkey, and Chief George Seifert worked on the trapped patient. Because the patient's legs were on the outside of the vehicle, extrication proved difficult.

Tourniquets were applied to each of Mr. Mills' legs before extrication began. The extrication took 17 minutes with multiple extrication tools being used to prevent the door from pushing back onto the patient, which could potentially cause more injuries. MedEvac landed on the scene with the assistance of law enforcement, and was able to load the patient as soon as he was freed, transporting him to Cleveland Clinic Akron General Medical Center. A total of 41 minutes passed from the time of the call to transfer of care to hospital personnel.

This incident is a perfect example of the chain of survival from the 9-1-1 call, rapid initial actions of law enforcement to the paramedics' high quality patient care, and rapid air medical transport to a Level I Trauma Center. Excellent communication and teamwork between highly trained, professional staff helped ensure quality patient care throughout this unfortunate event.

# EMS STAR OF LIFE

The EMS Star of Life Awards are being presented by the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services, and the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Medical Services.

The EMS Star of Life Awards recognize outstanding achievements and honor those in Ohio's EMS system whose accomplishments rise above the day-to-day excellence of the system. Each day in Ohio, EMS providers save lives and perform countless noteworthy acts of caring, kindness, and service to their community.

These awards are a tribute to those individuals and organizations whose overall contributions go beyond their basic duties and responsibilities and who represent the finest traditions of our profession.

The Awards Selection Panel evaluated nominations based upon achievement of excellence in areas of patient care, public access, public education and training, disaster preparedness, and outstanding service to their communities.







# SPECIAL THANKS TO...

## **EMS Star of Life Speakers**

Rob Wagoner – *Executive Director, Division of EMS*

Karen Huey – *Assistant Director, Ohio Department of Public Safety*

## **EMS Star of Life Presenters**

Kent Appelhans – *Chair, State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire,  
& Transportation Services*

Carol Cunningham, MD, FAAEM, FAEMS – *State of Ohio Medical Director*

## **EMS Star of Life Organizer**

Valerie Koker – *Executive Assistant, Division of EMS*

## **EMS Star of Life Plaque Awards**

Ohio Association of Critical Care Transport

## **EMS Star of Life Pins & Program Logistics**

Holly Dorr, MBA, CAE, CMP – *Ohio Chapter of the American College of  
Emergency Physicians*

## **EMS Star of Life Video Voiceover**

Erin Reed – *ODPS Project Manager*

## **EMS Star of Life Public Communications**

China Dodley – *ODPS Public Information Officer*

## **EMS Star of Life Program and Videos**

Todd Dilley – *ODPS Visual Communications*

Laura Milem – *ODPS Visual Communications*

## **EMS Star of Life Photographers**

Rebecca Meadows – *ODPS Visual Communications*

## **“When Those Sirens Are Gone” Video**

Performed by: Kevin Davison, singer, songwriter, paramedic and firefighter

Written by: Kevin Davison and Doug Folkins

Video sponsored by: The Tema Memorial Trust



The Ohio Department of Public Safety, through the Division of EMS, oversees the certification of emergency medical technicians and firefighters and ensures that the professionals in these lifesaving roles are properly trained, educated, and prepared for emergency situations.



The State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services is dedicated to saving lives and minimizing disability to Ohio's citizens and visitors by developing and continually enhancing a statewide, comprehensive, systematic response to injury, illness, and fire, primarily through education, training, certification, and strategic planning.



Established in 1972, Ohio ACEP is a state medical specialty society representing emergency medicine with more than 1,400 emergency physician members. Ohio ACEP is committed to advancing emergency care through continuing education, research, and public education, and assuring access to high quality emergency care for the people of Ohio. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Ohio ACEP is a chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians representing emergency physicians nationwide.



